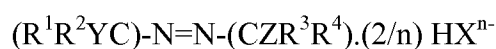


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of listing of claims, and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously presented) Polymerisation initiator system, comprising a water-soluble container consisting of a water-soluble azo-initiator or a water-soluble azo-initiator and at least one component selected from the group consisting of water-soluble anti-foaming agents and water-soluble diluent materials.
2. (Original) Polymerisation initiator package according to claim 1, wherein the water-soluble container is a bag.
3. (Previously presented) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1, wherein the container is made of a water-soluble polymer.
4. (Original) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 3, wherein the water-soluble polymer is a water-soluble cellulosic polymer or polyvinylalcohol.
5. (Previously presented) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 3, wherein the container is an extruded container.
6. (Previously presented) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1, wherein the azo-initiator is selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the formula

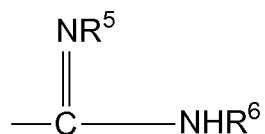


Formula I

wherein

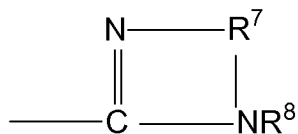
R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 each represent the same or a different alkyl group or cycloalkyl group

Y and Z each represent the same or a different group represented by the formula



Formula II

or



Formula III

R^5 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, allyl or phenyl group

R^6 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl or phenyl group

R^7 is an optionally substituted alkylene group

R^8 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyalkyl group

X is an anion, wherein n represents its valence, and X is preferably a monovalent anion, more preferably chloride, bromide or acetate.

7. (Previously presented) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1, wherein the azo-initiator is 2,2'-Azobis(2-amidinopropane), 2,2'-azobis[2-(2-imidazolin-2-yl)propane] or a salt thereof.

8. (Previously presented) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1, wherein the amount of azo-initiator in the container is in the range of 1 g to 25 kg.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Withdrawn) Method of polymerisation, comprising adding a container comprising an initiator to a polymerisation system and dissolving the initiator and container in the polymerisation system.
11. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 10, wherein the polymerisation system is an emulsion polymerisation system or a solution polymerisation system.
12. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 10, wherein the polymerisation system is an aqueous polymerisation system.
13. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 10, wherein the polymerisation system comprises at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, acryl amide, acrylesters (e.g. ethyl acrylate), vinyl acetate, acetonitrile and styrene, preferably from the group consisting of acrylic acid and acryl amide.
14. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 10, wherein the container and initiator are added in the form of a polymerisation initiator system comprising a water-soluble container and a water-soluble azo-initiator inside the container.
15. (Previously presented) Method for preparing a polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1, wherein the water-soluble azo-initiator is introduced into the water-soluble container, after which the container is sealed.
16. (Previously presented) Method for handling a polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1, wherein the system is transferred from a polymerisation initiator system

manufacturing site to a polymer production site and integrally introduced into a polymerisation reactor.

17. (Previously presented) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1, wherein the azo-initiator is in the form of powder, crystals, granules, or combinations thereof.
18. (Previously presented) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 8, wherein the amount of azo-initiator in the container is in the range of 100g to 10 kg.
19. (Previously presented) Polymerisation initiator system, comprising a water-soluble container and a water-soluble azo-initiator inside the container wherein the azo-initiator is in the form of powder, crystals, granules, or combinations thereof.
20. (New) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 19, wherein the azo-initiator is 2,2'-Azobis(2-amidinopropane) dihydrochloride and the water-soluble container is a polyvinylalcohol bag.
21. (New) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 19, wherein the water-soluble container consists of a water-soluble azo-initiator.
22. (New) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 19, wherein the azo-initiator is in the form of crystals.
23. (New) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 19, wherein the azo-initiator is in the form of powder.
24. (New) Polymerisation initiator system, consisting of 2,2'-Azobis(2-amidinopropane) dihydrochloride in a water-soluble polyvinylalcohol bag.